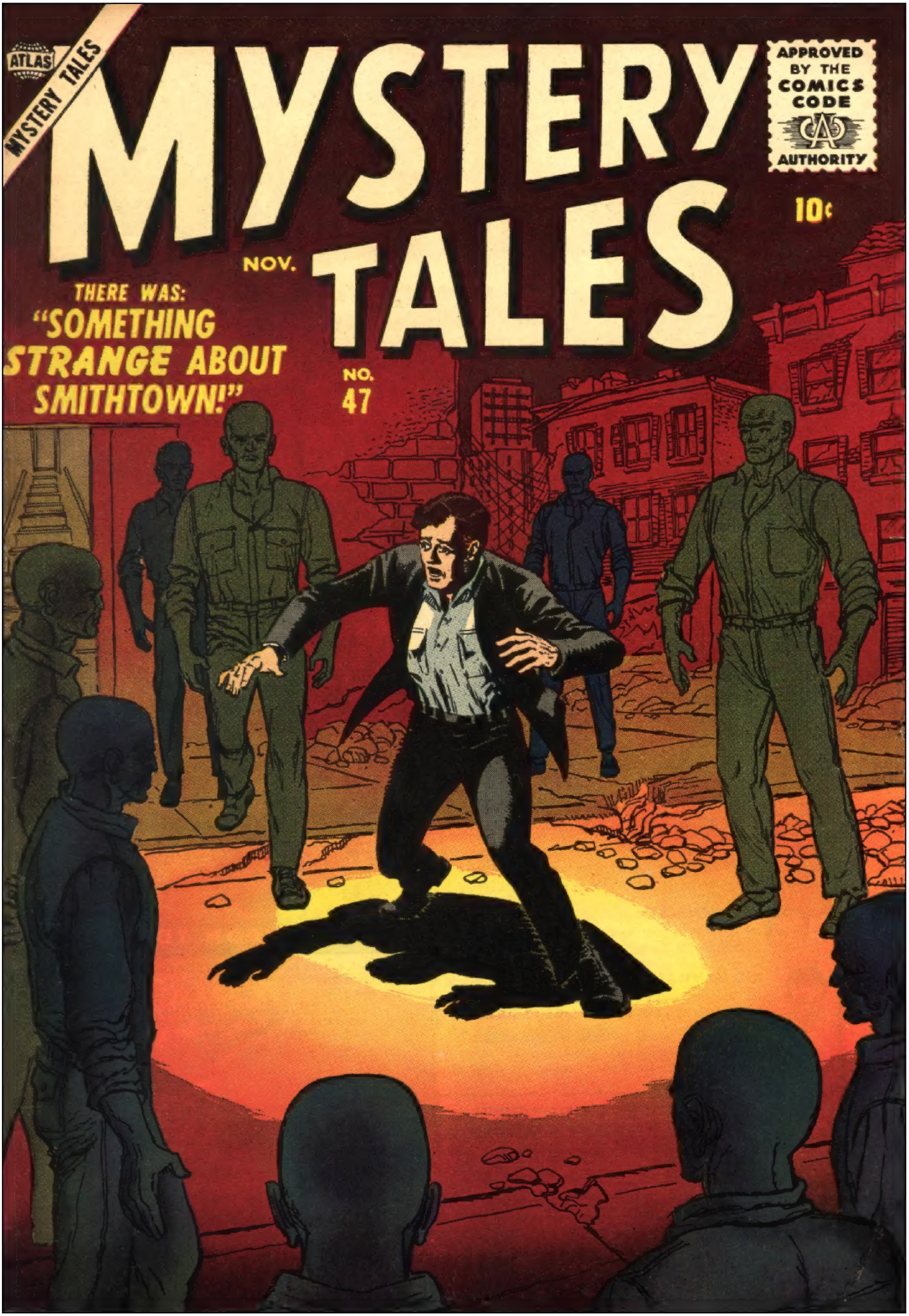
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MYSTERY TALES
MYSTERY TALES
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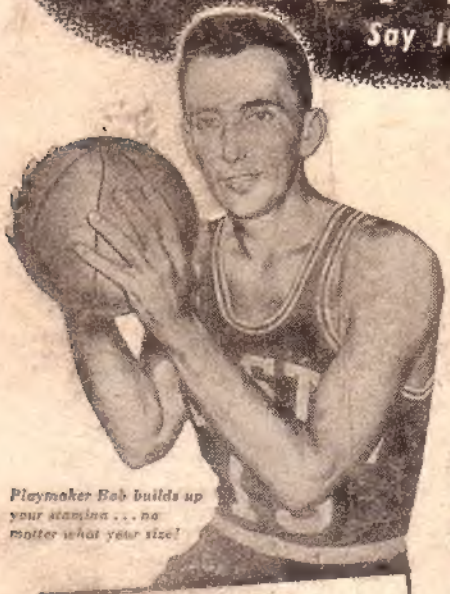
NOV.
NO. 47
THERE WAS: "SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT SMITHTOWN!"

WE'LL RIPPLE YOUR BODY WITH MUSCLES and LOAD T·N·T IN YOUR FISTS"

Say JOE LOUIS and BOB COUSY



Playmaker Bob builds up your stamina . . . no matter what your size!

Let Champions give you power and confidence . . . they promise solid new muscles in ten days

I wish you could come with Bob and me to Lou Stillman's famous training headquarters . . . see for yourself how the Champions build their bodies and keep physically fit. It's easy to do and lots of fun!

Are you fat and flabby? Watch Ted Kluszewski show his surefire method to remove fat. Tired and nervous? See Kid Gavilan's tested plan to liven you up. Want powerful shoulders? Doak Walker has a proven body builder that gives you results . . . FAST!

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Sincerely,

Joe Louis

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- Skinny
- Fat and Flabby
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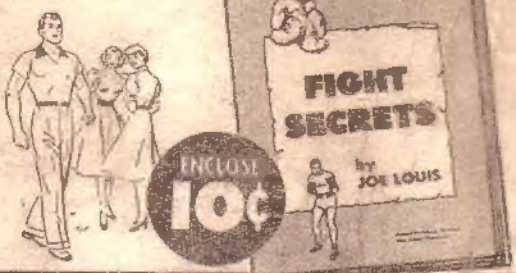

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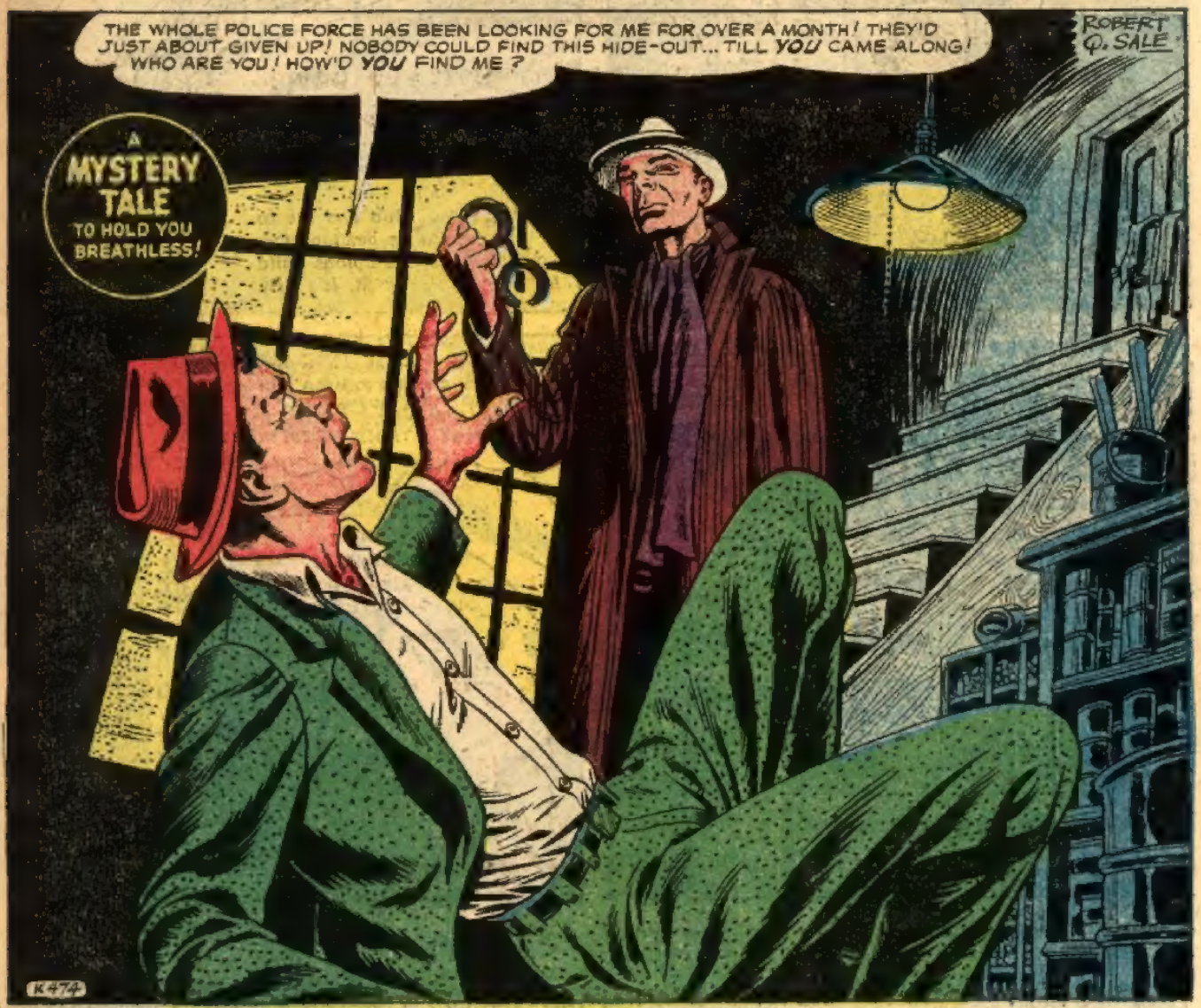
HOW CAN YOU HIDE FROM A POLICE OFFICER WHO KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING? HOW CAN YOU TRUST ANYBODY AROUND YOU WHEN ONE OF THE VERY PEOPLE YOU'VE BEFRIENDED, MAY BE THAT SAME POLICEMAN IN **DISGUISE!** THAT WAS WHAT A NO-GOOD GUY NAMED DANNY RICE WAS UP AGAINST WITH **DETECTIVE X!**

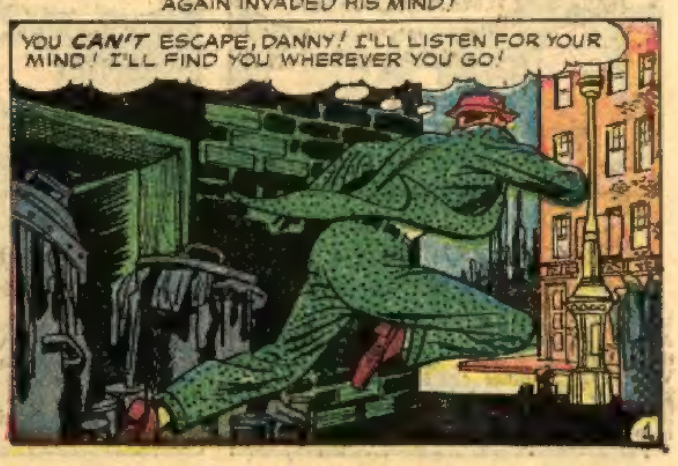
THE MAN WITH NO FACE!


THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR ME FOR OVER A MONTH! THEY'D JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP! NOBODY COULD FIND THIS HIDE-OUT... TILL YOU CAME ALONG! WHO ARE YOU! HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
ROBERT Q. SALE
A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!
K474

THE DETECTIVE STOOD LOOKING AT DANNY, BUT HE SPOKE NO WORD! YET THE FUGITIVE HEARD HIS ANSWER...

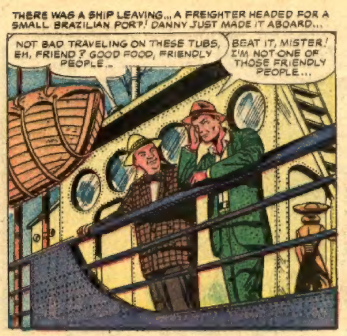
WHO AM I? OH, JUST CALL ME DETECTIVE X! HOW DID I FIND YOU, DANNY RICE? I HAVE THE POWER OF THOUGHT TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION!
YOU READ MY MIND... AND TRACED ME HERE THROUGH MY THOUGHTS?

THERE WAS NO THINKING THIS TIME! BY REFLEX ACTION ALONE, DANNY DOUSED THE LIGHTS, BOWLED OVER HIS UNINVITED GUEST... BUT DETECTIVE X'S THOUGHTS AGAIN INVADED HIS MIND!



DANNY RICE WAS STILL A FUGITIVE! BUT IT WASN'T LIKE BEFORE! HE KNEW THAT, AS HE MADE HIS WAY TO THE RAILROAD FREIGHT YARDS AND FOUND A TRAIN ABOUT TO PULL OUT...
MAYBE YOU'LL FIND ME, DETECTIVE X... BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO COME A LONG WAY!
GO ON, DETECTIVE X... READ MY MIND! YOU CAN'T FOLLOW ME! CAUSE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I'M GOING MYSELF!
IT WAS A LONG RIDE FOR DANNY... A 3,000 MILE RIDE!
SAN FRANCISCO! IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO BE IN! HA! THEY WON'T THINK I'VE GONE ALL THE WAY TO CALIFORNIA!
WELCOME TO SAN FRANCISC
DETECTIVE X! I FORGOT! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS NAME OF THIS CITY! WELL, IT'S A LARGE CITY, DETECTIVE X, IF YOU'RE TUNED IN TO MY MIND! YOU'LL HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING ME HERE, 'CAUSE I'M GOING TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT I THINK FROM NOW ON!
NOBODY BOTHERED DANNY RICE DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, AND HE BEGAN TO RELAX! HE FELT QUITE SAFE THE EVENING HE SAT IN DORGAN'S WATERFRONT CAFE...
WILL THAT BE ALL, MISTER?
SURE, PAL... ISN'T ONE MEAL ALL ANYBODY USUALLY EATS? LET'S HAVE THE CHECK!
THE WAITER'S NEXT MOVE WAS SO SWIFT, THAT DANNY WAS TAKEN COMPLETELY OFF GUARD...
WELL, DANNY, NOW DO YOU SEE HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT IT IS FOR YOU TO ESCAPE ME?
NO! YOU CAN'T BE...GASP! X! DETECTIVE X! YOU JUST DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE HIM!
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE ME BACK WITH YOU!
2

GO ON, RUN AGAIN, DANNY RICE! RUN TILL YOU'RE TIRED OF RUNNING! RUN TILL YOU REALIZE YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM ME!
I WILL GET AWAY! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!


THERE WAS A SHIP LEAVING... A FREIGHTER HEADED FOR A SMALL BRAZILIAN PORT! DANNY JUST MADE IT ABOARD...
NOT BAD TRAVELING ON THESE TUBS, EH, FRIEND? GOOD FOOD, FRIENDLY PEOPLE—
BEAT IT, MISTER! I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE FRIENDLY PEOPLE...

WELL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT, I PROMISE YOU YOU'LL BE LEFT VERY MUCH ALONE!
GOT ME JUMPY, THAT DETECTIVE! I'M BEGINNING TO GET SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYBODY I SEE! I'VE GOT THE JUMP ON HIM THIS TIME... HE'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH ME!

WHEN DANNY REACHED BRAZIL, HE TAXIED FROM THE AIRPORT TO A SMALL TOWN! FROM THERE HE WENT AT ONCE TO ANOTHER SMALL TOWN...
FIND ME NOW, DETECTIVE X! YOU'LL LEARN NOTHING ABOUT WHERE I AM FROM MY MIND! I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM MYSELF!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, DANNY RICE FELT SAFE, AT PEACE! HE TRIED DELIBERATELY NOT TO LEARN THE NAME OF THE TOWN / AND WITH THAT FEELING OF FREEDOM, HE GRADUALLY MADE SOME FRIENDS...
WELL, SENOR... I'M AFRAID YOU WIN AGAIN...
I'M A HARD MAN TO BEAT AT ANY GAME, MR. RAFELO!
THEN SOMETHING SENT A CHILL DOWN DANNY'S SPINE...
I BELIEVE I'VE BEATEN YOU AT ONE GAME, DANNY RICE! DON'T MOVE! I'VE GOT A GUN POINTED AT YOU UNDER THE TABLE!
DETECTIVE X! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD YOU FOLLOW ME TO A PLACE WHOSE NAME I DON'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF?
YOU LOOKED AT A NEWSPAPER ONCE, DANNY! IT HAD THE NAME OF THE TOWN YOU'RE IN! WAIT... DON'T TRY THAT!

DANNY RICE HURRIED BACK TO THE STATES! HE TRIED TO LOSE HIMSELF IN HIS HOME TOWN! HE GOT A JOB IN A BIG AUTO PLANT... THAT'S WHERE HE MET ESTHER DAYE...

GREAT GAME, ISN'T IT, SWEETHEART?

ANYTHING'S GREAT, AS LONG AS I'M WITH ***YOU***, DANNY!

DANNY WAS REALLY BEGINNING TO FEEL HAPPY, TILL THAT DAY! HE'D BEEN TALKING MARRIAGE TO ESTHER... BUT SUDDENLY, THAT WAS ALL OVER...

I'M HERE AGAIN, DANNY... I'M WATCHING YOU!

I'M SORRY, DAD... WHEN I'M WITH DANNY, I FORGET ANYBODY ELSE AROUND! ENJOYING THE GAME, DEAR?

DANNY KNEW IT WAS TIME TO GET OUT OF TOWN, AND HE MADE PLANS WITH A COUPLE OF FELLOWS HE MET! BUT THEN...

WE GET ALL SET TO TAKE THIS JOINT, RICE, AND NOW ***YOU*** BACK OUT! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, RICE?

WELL, I WANTED THE MONEY SO I COULD GET OUT OF TOWN! BUT I CHANGED MY MIND! I'M IN LOVE WITH A WONDERFUL GIRL! DOES THAT EXPLAIN IT?

DANNY RICE WASN'T VERY GOOD COMPANY AT DINNER WITH THE DAYES THAT EVENING! HE DID A LOT OF THINKING...

I LOVE ESTHER TOO MUCH TO RUN OUT ON HER! I'LL ***LET DETECTIVE X*** CATCH UP WITH ME! SURE, I'LL TAKE MY MEDICINE, GO TO JAIL... MAYBE SHE'LL WAIT FOR ME!

MY, BUT YOU'RE QUIET TONIGHT, DANNY!

SURE, YOU'RE QUIET! WHAT CAN A COUPLE OF KIDS IN LOVE SAY, WITH AN OLD CODGER HANGING AROUND ALL OF THE TIME! I'M GOING OUT FOR A WALK!

THANKS, DAD! SEE YOU LATER...

HERBERT DAYE DID TAKE A WALK! HE WENT TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS, TO HIS SUPERIOR, CAPT. CHARLES HOLT...

YOU KNOW, CAPTAIN... I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE ELUSIVE DANNY RICE IS GOING TO WALK IN HERE SOMEDAY ***SOON***, AND GIVE HIMSELF UP!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, HERB...

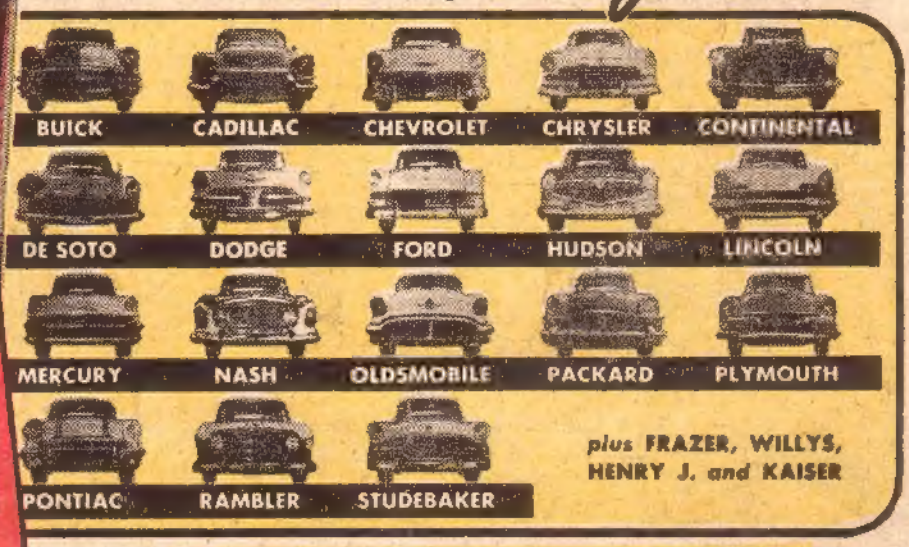
YES, DANNY RICE HAD DONE A LOT OF THINKING THAT NIGHT, AND HERB DAYE HAD LISTENED IN TO IT!

BY THE WAY, ***DETECTIVE X***, THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW TIMES I'VE SEEN YOU ***WITHOUT*** A DISGUISE!

THE END

FIX ANY CAR EASIER!

...and twice as fast!



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PROCTOR WAS A PHYSICIST, A BRILLIANT MATHEMATICIAN! BUT HE WILL NEVER FIND THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE THE STRANGER LEFT HIM...

AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
DOES IT MATTER? I AM NOT OF YOUR WORLD, BUT I MEAN YOU NO HARM! I AM HERE TO HELP YOU... WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME?
U.S. ATOMIC EXPERIMENTAL STATION
A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!
K623

NOT OF MY WORLD? I-I SEE! ALL RIGHT... I'LL LISTEN...
I'LL LISTEN, MISTER WHOEVER-YOU-ARE, UNTIL THE SECURITY GUARDS GET HERE!
SECURITY GUARD CALL

THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE AND I HAVE ONLY TWELVE HOURS BEFORE I MUST RETURN TO MY OWN WORLD! I AM RAGON!
RAGON? TWELVE HOURS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHERE IS YOUR WORLD?

SHALL WE SAY IN ANOTHER DIMENSION...IN TWELVE HOURS THE ENERGY BEAM WHICH BROUGHT ME HERE WILL DISSIPATE, SO I WILL EXPLAIN...
U.S. ATOMIC EXPERIMENTAL STATION ENTRY BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN
MY WORLD IS FAR ADVANCED! I CAN TELL YOU ALL YOU WISH TO KNOW ABOUT ATOMIC ENERGY, BUT FIRST YOU WILL HAVE TO TELL ME ALL THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED!
JUST LIKE THAT? YOU MUST REALLY THINK ME A FOOL TO BE TAKEN IN SO EASILY, DAGON! BUT I'M NOT! LOOK BEHIND YOU!
WE HEARD IT ALL, PROFESSOR! CUTTING US IN ON YOUR INTERCOM WAS FAST THINKING... BUT WHO IS HE?
A SPY! HE TELLS A GOOD STORY, EVEN THAT GET-UP OF HIS SHOWS IMAGINATION, BUT...
BUT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME. YOU THINK I COME TO STEAL YOUR KNOWLEDGE! YET HOW CAN I HELP YOU IF I DO NOT FIRST KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE A FAKE, BUT WE'LL FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOU WHEN THE F.B.I. ARRIVES!
ARREST HIM!
NO! I TOLD YOU I CAME TO HELP YOU, BUT IF YOU WILL NOT HAVE IT... SO BE IT!
LOOK OUT... HE'S ARMED!
THE STONE MELTED! MAYBE HE IS WHAT HE SAYS! HE AIMED THAT TUBE HIGH DELIBERATELY... SO AS NOT TO HIT US!
DON'T BE A FOOL, WALTERS! HE HAS SOME NEW SORT OF WEAPON... BUT IF HE WERE WHAT HE SAYS HE IS, HE WOULDN'T HAVE FIRED AT ALL!

MAYBE NOT, BUT WE NEVER GAVE HIM A CHANCE! I DON'T LIKE IT! HOW DID HE GET PAST THE GUARDS?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT I'M HEAD OF THIS STATION... I'LL MAKE THE DECISIONS!
DAGON! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY! I THINK YOU'RE A SPY, BUT WALTERS HERE IS ON YOUR SIDE! YOU'RE MORE THAN HUMAN... PROVE IT!
NO! I CAME AS A FRIEND... BUT IT WAS A MISTAKE!
MAN IS NOT READY FOR WHAT I BRING: MAN IS STILL AFRAID...SUSPICIOUS...SO PERHAPS IT IS BEST THIS WAY!
I KNEW IT! HE CAN'T PROVE IT BECAUSE IT ISN'T SO! HE'S A SPY! A CLEVER ONE, BUT STILL A SPY!
GET AFTER HIM! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT DAMAGE HE MAY DO!
THERE HE GOES!
THE REACTOR ROOM! WE CAN'T FOLLOW HIM IN THERE! IF WE FIRE AND HIT THE REACTOR, THE WHOLE STATION MAY BLOW UP!
I KNOW...BUT HE'S TRAPPED HIMSELF! THAT DOOR IS THE ONLY WAY HE CAN GET OUT! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT!
SO...
HE'S IN THERE SEVEN HOURS! WHY DOESN'T HE COME OUT?
HE'S TRYING TO WEAR US DOWN! HE PROBABLY THINKS WE'RE CONCERNED WITH THAT STORY OF HIS ABOUT GOING BACK TO HIS OWN WORLD AT MIDNIGHT!
DAGON, IT WON'T WORK! IF YOU THINK WE'LL SWALLOW YOUR FAIRY TALE FOR FEAR YOU'LL DISAPPEAR AT MIDNIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG!
I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF HE'S STILL IN THERE!

NOTHING FOR HOURS.
ONE MINUTE TO TWELVE AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER! WHAT IF WE'RE WRONG? IF HE IS FROM ANOTHER WORLD?
STOP TALKING LIKE A FOOL! HE'S JUST A MAN! YOU'RE LETTING YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU!
MAYBE...BUT IF WE'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO CHEATED THE WHOLE WORLD!
NO! STOP! HE'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN!
EMPTY! HE'S GONE...VANISHED AT MIDNIGHT, JUST LIKE HE SAID!
BUT HE CAN'T BE GONE! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! HE'S HIDING. THE MEN WILL FIND HIM!
BUT... YOU FOUND NOTHING, BUT HE MUST BE HERE! I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WRONG! HE WAS A SPY...AN ORDINARY MAN!
WAS HE, PROFESSOR? I THINK YOU'D BETTER LOOK AT THIS!
WHY THAT'S ONE OF THE FILM SQUARES WE USE TO CHECK RADIATION LEAKS. IF THERE'S A LEAK, THE FILM FOGS! WHY GIVE IT TO ME?
BECAUSE THERE WAS A RADIATION LEAK AND DAGON MUST HAVE STOOD IN FRONT OF THIS FILM WHILE HE WAS IN HERE!
WHAT OF IT, WALTERS? HAVE YOU GONE MAD? I TELL YOU DAGON WAS JUST A MAN!
LOOK AT THE FILM! WHEN DAGON STOOD BEFORE IT THE RADIATION RECORDED HIS BONE STRUCTURE ON IT... JUST LIKE AN X-RAY!
JUST A MAN, PROFESSOR? I WONDER WHAT WE'VE THROWN AWAY? I GUESS WE'LL BOTH BE WONDERING FROM NOW ON... FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!
A PAIR OF... WINGS!

The King of the Lions

THE audience shouted approval as Tonga, Tamer of Jungle Cats, teased Destiny with the crack of his whip. The huge lions snarled angrily from their perches. Their shaggy heads bristled, and their lean-muscled bodies spoke of the animal power that reigned in the jungle kingdom. Only now they obeyed another king . . . the man-king Tonga.

Outside the giant cage stood Krishna, brother of Tonga. He watched his brother enviously. As each burst of applause seemed to encourage Tonga, so did it burn the jealous fires in Krishna's eyes. Krishna tried to still these unworthy feelings within him. It was no use. He could only think back to the days when he, too, had stood proudly next to Tonga inside the lions' cage, putting the cats through their paces. Together, the brothers were featured stars. Now, Tonga carried on the act alone, a great star shining even more brightly when compared to Krishna, the fallen star . . . the failure.

Since the incident, Tonga had tried to be very kind to him.

"We are going to be together always, Krishna, my brother. It could have happened to me, too. The cats are treacherous. We have done our best to care for them lovingly, but the law of the jungle turned the beast upon you."

"It is a miracle that you rescued me from the cage," said Krishna gratefully. "I remember my amazement when the lion sprang suddenly toward me. I stumbled and fell. I knew nothing until the time a awakened, unharmed but sore in spirit. Now, I must go away and find some other work. When it is time for me to enter the cage and perform, I cannot move. A powerful force prevents me from stepping forward into the cage. It is beyond my control. I will leave and never see the circus again!"

"Oh, no!" Tonga protested anxiously. "That would be the worst thing you could do. I must have you with me, Krishna. If you refuse to enter the cage with me again, I can forgive you. At least you will care for the cats."

Krishna was startled. "You want me to be a keeper! The great Krishna who once lorded over the fiercest lions to lower himself that way! Never! I am going away from the circus, I tell you, and I will never return."

Tonga's face hardened. "I must then command you and hold you to the promise we made our mother when we set out in the world to seek our fortune. She asked that we stay together and that you, the younger, should obey my reasonable requests until the year of your Manhood. The year lacks two moon seasons before it frees you from my guardianship. Until then, I must insist that you obey my wishes."

"I will do so, my brother," said Krishna bitterly. "When the last moon before my Manhood departs, then I will leave . . . forever!"

Krishna spoke few words to Tonga from that day on. He fed the lions and cleaned their cages, more like a slave than a once great lion tamer.

He watched Tonga, elegant in his gold and white uniform, put the lions through their final tricks. The mighty beasts bowed before Tonga, stretching out in front of him while he raised his arms triumphantly to the cheering spectators.

Krishna opened the cat track for the lions to return to their cages. The admiring shouts of the audience rang in his ears as he herded off the lions. He, the once-great Krishna, was now dressed in dark workclothes, his knees covered with dirty sawdust. The sight of Tonga, glittering in his fine hero's uniform, was almost too much for him to bear.

The night air was cool, and after the performance Krishna paced the circus lot where the animal trucks were parked. After a while, he sat down cross-legged in front of the lion leader's cage. He stared at the great hulk of shadow that the crouching lion formed behind the bars.

Suddenly the startling green eyes of the lion burned through the darkness.

"You are heavy in your heart, Krishna."

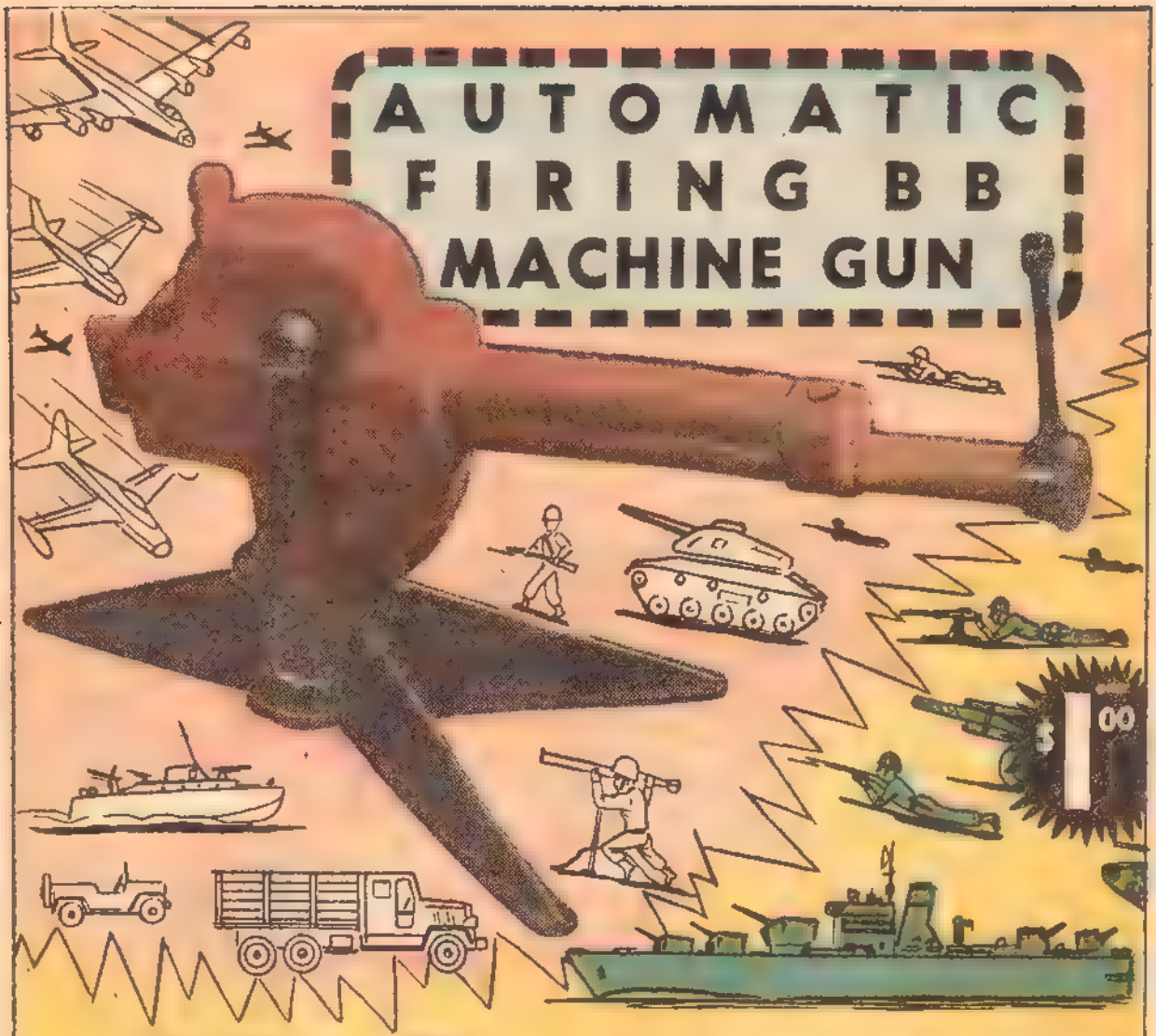
"Who speaks? Who is there?"

"Your friend, the lion, of course. Is there any other friend you can turn to these cold, bitter nights?"

"King of the Beasts, you mock me," said Krishna angrily. "What friend are you to me when you and your brothers

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

AUTOMATIC FIRING BB MACHINE GUN



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- Complete 21-piece task force selected of:
- infantrymen
- tanks
- gunners
- trucks
- cruisers
- battleships
- jet planes
- bombers
- riflemen
- space ships
- full supply of BBs

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

This is the newest, most sensational action toy out, and we're so sure that you will be delighted, that we offer a full 10 day Free Trial. If you are not 100% satisfied simply return for full refund. You risk nothing. We know you're going to be delighted so we make this amazing offer.

A Complete Thrilling Combat Unit At Your Command

Now you can be Commander-In-Chief of this complete task force. You can deploy your troops, navy and air force for attack or defense and every pitched battle is won, as your perfect plastic model of an actual machine gun goes into devastating action blasting your target in a hail of fast firing automatic repeating pellets. Simply pour in the BBs and then fire away. It's operated by a crank and sets up in a jiffy. The swivel base turns in a full circle assuring complete coverage and range, and it's removable so that you can carry your machine gun wherever you go. Fires automatically as many deadly BBs as you want as fast as you desire. And, you get a complete 21 piece Task Force of soldiers, tanks, gunners, trucks, bombers, cruisers, battleships and space ships. Plus a full supply of BBs all for only $1.00+25c shipping charges. Don't delay! Order Now!

LOOK AT THESE SENSATIONAL FEATURES:

- Complete Task Force and Space Ship Armada at your command.
- Automatic Firing BB Machine Gun mowing down the enemy.
- All scale-model replicas of the real thing.
- Makes your friends toys outdated.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Honor House Products Dept. B-86-B
Lynbrook, N. Y.

Rush my Automatic Firing BB Machine Gun and Complete Task Force Armada on 10 day Free Trial. If I am not completely satisfied, I may return it for prompt refund of full purchase price.

☐ I enclose $1.00 + 25c shipping charges. Same money back guarantee.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

NAME _____

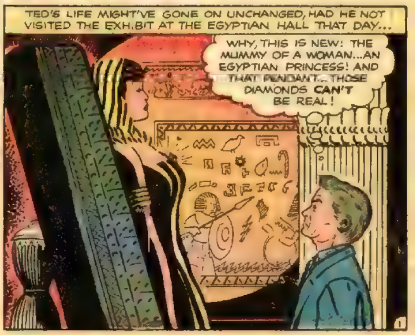
ADDRESS _____

THE ANSWER TO TED DAVIS'S LONELINESS HUNG ABOUT THE NECK OF A PRINCESS! ROBBERY WAS A SIMPLE MATTER, FOR THE PRINCESS HAD BEEN DEAD FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS! BUT TED'S FABULOUS THEFT BROUGHT HIM ONLY TEMPORARY HAPPINESS AND A MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHING FIANCÉE!

THE ONLY WOMAN!

A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!
EVEN HERE, I DON'T GET AWAY FROM MY LONELINESS! EVERYWHERE I LOOK, THERE ARE COUPLES, HAPPY TOGETHER! BUT WHAT WOMAN WOULD GO OUT WITH ME? IF THERE WERE JUST SOME MAGIC FORMULA TO MAKE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
EGYPTIAN HALL
KG3!

NO, NOT EVEN THE MUSEUM OFFERED TED DAVIS REFUGE FROM UNHAPPINESS...
THERE ARE OTHER HOMELY MEN IN THE WORLD, AND THEY GET MARRIED! BUT PERHAPS THEY'RE NOT POOR! I HAVE BOTH HANDICAPS!
EGYPTIAN HALL


TED'S LIFE MIGHT'VE GONE ON UNCHANGED, HAD HE NOT VISITED THE EXHIBIT AT THE EGYPTIAN HALL THAT DAY...
WHY, THIS IS NEW! THE MUMMY OF A WOMAN...AN EGYPTIAN PRINCESS! AND THAT PENDANT... THOSE DIAMONDS CAN'T BE REAL!

THEY ARE REAL DIAMONDS! IT WOULDN'T MATTER WHAT I LOOK LIKE, IF I OWNED THAT NECKLACE! ANY WOMAN WOULD BE GLAD TO MARRY ME!
PRINCESS LA-NI
285 BC
262 B.C.
HE THRILLED AT THE VERY THOUGHT OF POSSESSING THE FABULOUS DIAMOND PENDANT! FOR A MOMENT, HE WAS DETERRED BY THE PRINCESS'S MUMMY GUARDS...
AFTER ALL, THEY CAN'T STOP ME! THEY CAN'T CALL FOR HELP!
TED WATCHED THE PAPERS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS! STRANGELY, MUSEUM OFFICIALS DID NOT SEEM TO MISS THE PENDANT! SOON, HE MUSTERED UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO HAVE IT APPRAISED...
ABSOLUTELY FLAWLESS! I PLACE ITS VALUE AT ABOUT TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND, MR. DAVIS! IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SELLING...
NO, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW!
WHY, IT'S MR. DAVIS! YOU REMEMBER ME.. PALM BEACH, TWO YEARS AGO! WE MET ON THE BEACH! EVELYN VINSON...
TED KNEW AS WELL AS THE BLONDE THAT THEY'D NEVER MET BEFORE! INDEED, THAT GLITTERING PENDANT HAD JUST THE MAGIC HE NEEDED TO ATTRACT WOMEN...
WHAT A NICE PLACE! I DO LOVE GOING TO THESE QUAINT CAFES!
SHE'S A LIAR, BUT AT LEAST SHE'S COMPANY! WELL, THERE'LL BE OTHERS, AND PERHAPS I'LL FIND ONE I REALLY WOULD BE HAPPY WITH!
YES, THERE WERE MANY FRIENDS NOW, DRAWN TO TED BY THE $200,000 GLEAM OF THE EGYPTIAN PENDANT! BUT MYSTERY ALSO ENTERED TED DAVIS'S LIFE, FOR ONE NIGHT...
THOSE MEN HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ME, LURKING IN THE SHADOWS! THE PENDANT! THAT'S IT! I'VE BEEN FLASHING IT AROUND TOO MUCH! THEY WANT TO STEAL IT FROM ME!
SOUND

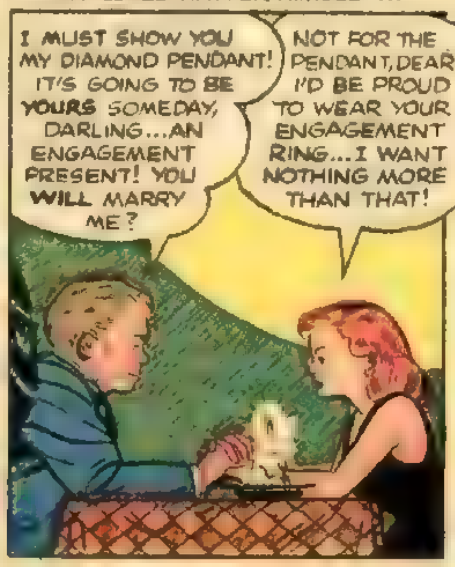
TED WAS NO LONGER LONELY BUT HE WAS ALARMED FOR THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURES FOLLOWED HIM EVERY NIGHT! HE SOUGHT SAFETY IN CROWDS AT PARTIES! AND IT WAS AT A PARTY THAT HE MET KITTY BLAKE...

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY THIS, KIT, NOT SO SOON! BUT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THE MOMENT WE WERE INTRODUCED!
I'M GLAD YOU SAID IT, TED! I FEEL THE SAME WAY!

THE JOY HE FELT AT THAT MOMENT WAS SOON MARRED, AS HE WALKED ALONG A DARK STREET WITH KIT..

TED, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO JITTERY! IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
N-NO, KIT...LET'S GO TO SOME RESTAURANT..SOME PLACE WHERE IT'S LIGHT AND GAY!

TED WANTED TO MAKE HIS HAPPINESS COMPLETE! HE WANTED TO BE SURE KIT LOVED HIM FOR HIMSELF...


I MUST SHOW YOU MY DIAMOND PENDANT! IT'S GOING TO BE YOURS SOMEDAY, DARLING...AN ENGAGEMENT PRESENT! YOU WILL MARRY ME?
NOT FOR THE PENDANT, DEAR! I'D BE PROUD TO WEAR YOUR ENGAGEMENT RING...I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN THAT!

ONE NIGHT, ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER, TED DAVIS SLIPPED AN ENGAGEMENT RING ON KIT'S FINGER..

NO, PLEASE! YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE A DOUBT IN YOUR MIND...
I'LL NEVER DOUBT THAT YOU LOVE ME! DON'T YOU SEE, YOU MUST KEEP IT! YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE BEEN SAVING IT FOR!

SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS WENT OUT! TED SAW THE DOOR OPEN AND THEN THEY WERE THERE ... THE MUMMIES IN THE DOORWAY!

JUST AS SUDDENLY THE DOOR WAS CLOSED! THE ROOM WAS SILENT! IT WAS SOME MINUTES BEFORE TED COULD MUSTER UP THE COURAGE TO WALK TO THE LIGHT SWITCH...

KIT! KIT! WHERE ARE YOU?

KIT, WHERE ARE YOU? THEY MUST'VE TAKEN HER AWAY!

TED DAVIS WENT AT ONCE TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

MR. DAVIS, ARE YOU **SURE** YOU'VE HAD NOTHING TO DRINK? THESE MUMMIES...THEY COULD'VE BEEN SOME THUGS USING THOSE WRAPPINGS FOR A DISGUISE!

I SUPPOSE THAT'S POSSIBLE, SERGEANT! THEY'D BEEN FOLLOWING ME FOR SOME TIME! YOU **SEE**, I HAD JUST GIVEN MISS BLAKE A VALUABLE DIAMOND PENDANT, AN ER...HEIRLOOM FOR AN ENGAGEMENT PRESENT...

THE POLICE SEARCHED FOR KIT BLAKE, AND TED CHECKED WITH THEM EVERY DAY...

B-BUT A PERSON JUST **CAN'T** VANISH WITHOUT LEAVING SOME TRACE, SERGEANT DUFFY!

LOOK, MR. DAVIS, YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES! FOR TWO WEEKS YOU'VE BEEN COMING IN HERE! I TOLD YOU WE'LL LET YOU KNOW THE MOMENT WE FIND HER!

WITHIN TWO WEEKS, IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE LADIES OF TED'S ACQUAINTANCE, THAT HE NO LONGER HAD THE FABULOUS PENDANT! THEN TED WAS ALONE AGAIN, BACK WHERE HE STARTED, A LONELY FIGURE AMONG HAPPY COUPLES...

MUSEUM OF HISTORY

IT WAS HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE MUSEUM IN NEARLY TWO MONTHS! SOMEHOW, HE HAD FELT DRAWN THERE BY SOME INVISIBLE FORCE, JUST AS HE WAS NOW DRAWN TO THE EGYPTIAN HALL...

TED DAVIS LOOKED UP AND SAW THE **PRINCESS LA-NI!** HE SAW THE SPARKLING DIAMOND PENDANT DANGLING FROM HER NECK! AND THE ENGAGEMENT RING ON HER FINGER...**WHERE HE HAD PUT IT!**

KIT...OH, KIT!

Free

To Get Names for Our Mailing List

1. **WORLD MAP** authentic Mercator projection map, used by air and sea navigators.
2. **STAMP FINDER** identifies stamps around the world—no matter how strange their script letters.
3. **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES** Tells area, location, population, parent country, etc.

IDENTIFY EVEN THE STRANGEST STAMPS—*at a glance!*

Now, no stamp need puzzle you—no matter how strangely it looks. Look at the Oriental script on the enlarged stamp at right. Now could you possibly tell what country it comes from. But with the stamp identifier at your side—you merely match the stamps with ones illustrated and you instantly know that it comes from Jordan.

PHILIPPINES JORDAN S. RHODESIA SERBIA LATVIA HUNGARY THRACE SPAIN JAPAN BOSNIA EGYPT

ALSO FREE!

A BIG ASSORTMENT—INCLUDING 15 MUCH WANTED STAMPS

CEYLON—Shows Kandyan dancer in ceremonial costume and native boaters in background

FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA

SAN MARINO

CONGO (Belgian)

MADAGASCAR

COLOMBIA

ISRAEL

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

SOMALI COAST

IRELAND (Eire)

TOGO

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—Large commemorative honors Trade Exhibition in which many nations (Pegasus) over-crowding the

KENYA & UGANDA

CAMEROUNS—Depicts strange buffalo-like domesticated oxen beast with cattle herdsman

SARAWAK

Yes, This Big Philatelic World Map, Stamp Finder and Encyclopedia of Stamp-Issuing Countries is Yours FREE!

THIS GIANT world map and stamp guide—which is yours FREE on this generous offer—is a treasure chest of valuable information. It locates the tiniest, most remote stamp issuing countries in the world. It deciphers the strangest script on the face of stamps—and tells you at a glance just what country issued them. It gives interesting facts about each country, including area, population, etc.

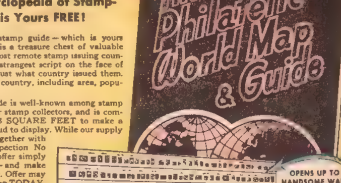
The Philatelic World Map & Guide is well-known among stamp fans everywhere. It's a real prize for stamp collectors, and is complete and up-to-date. Opens up to 3 SQUARE FEET to make a big handsome wall map you'll be proud to display. While our supply lasts—we'll send it to you FREE together with interesting stamp offers for your inspection No obligation. We make this generous offer simply to get names for our mailing list—and make more friends for Littleton. But hurry. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Mail coupon TODAY.

PLUS A Big Assortment of Choice Foreign Stamps FREE if You ACT QUICKLY

If you HURRY, we'll ALSO send you—FREE—a widely varied collection of foreign stamps from fascinating faraway places—including the FIFTEEN colorful, much-wanted stamps shown, any ONE of which *alone* would make it worthwhile for you to "snap-up" this amazing offer. ALL DIFFERENT! ALL WORTH REAL MONEY! Your stamp-collecting friends will turn green with envy when they see these exotic beauties in your album! And to make a lot of new friends quickly, we are offering them all FREE, together with the valuable World Map & Stamp Guide shown above—also FREE! Total value nearly $1.00!

RUSH THE COUPON TODAY!

Don't miss out on this chance. There is sure to be a tremendous response to this remarkable generation offer—and it is strictly limited by the supply on hand. We may have to withdraw this offer at any time. So don't delay. Mail coupon right now—TODAY. If coupon has already been clipped, mail only 10¢ (to help cover postage and handling) to: LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. MC-11, Littleton, N. H.



GUARANTEED TOTAL VALUE NEARLY $1.00!

LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. MC-11, Littleton, New Hampshire

Please send me FREE (while supply lasts) the valuable World Map & Stamp Guide, and a big assortment of choice foreign stamps including 15 much-wanted stamps shown above. Also send me interesting stamp offers. I'm not interested in approvals. I understand I am not obliged to buy anything from you now or later. I enclose 10¢ to help cover postal postage and handling of FREE map and stamps.

Name .....
(Please print Plainly)

Address .....

City ..... State .....

Check here for Discoverer Album—not costing you only $1 more. Money back if not delighted

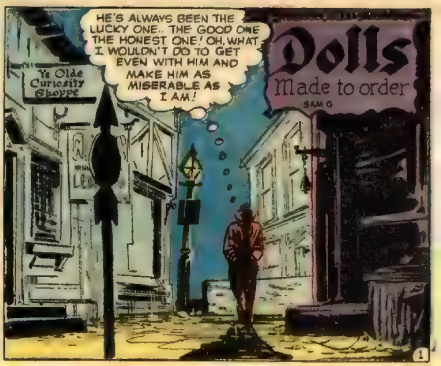
FAMOUS DISCOVERER ALBUM yours at an amazing low price! Room for 11,000 stamps. Packed with pictures, descriptions of all countries. Illustrated hints for beginners. 96 big pages. Yours for only $1 to help you to get started. Check box to coupon. Print Identifier and Stamp Hinges if you act at once!

CLIP AND MAIL NOW

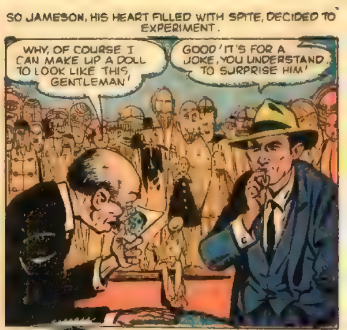
A KNOCK AT THE DOOR

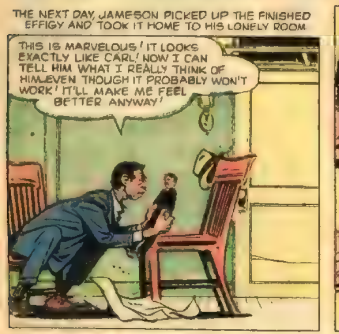
I'VE LENT YOU MONEY FOR THE LAST TIME, JAMESON! YOU ASKED ME FOR A LOAN, AND YOU USED THE MONEY I GAVE YOU TO SET UP A COMPETITIVE COMPANY TO DRIVE ME OUT OF BUSINESS AND RUIN ME! OF ALL THE UNGRATEFUL CADS, YOU'RE THE WORST! NOW GET OUT!
BUT I TELL YOU, YOU'RE WRONG, CARL! I WAS MISLED!
A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!
K 670

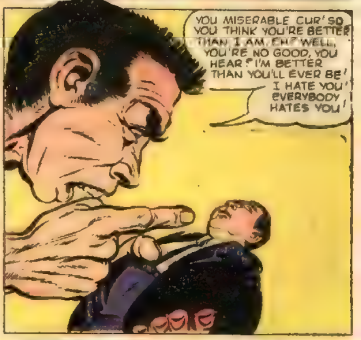
WELL, THAT'S THAT! SO MY RICH COUSIN FINALLY FOUND OUT I LOST ALL THE EXTRA MONEY HE LET ME HAVE! AND NOW I CAN'T BORROW ANY MORE FROM HIM! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!


HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE LUCKY ONE.. THE GOOD ONE THE HONEST ONE! OH, WHAT I WOULDN'T DO TO GET EVEN WITH HIM AND MAKE HIM AS MISERABLE AS I AM!
Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe
Dolls
Made to order
SAM G
1

HMM! STRANGE-LOOKING DOLLS HERE! DOLLS? WAIT A MINUTE! I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE ABOUT BEING ABLE TO INFLUENCE A DOLL-IMAGE OF YOUR ENEMY? FOOLISH NOTION, OF COURSE! I DOUBT THAT IT'LL WORK... BUT IT'S WORTH A TRY!
DOLLS
J.M.


SO JAMESON, HIS HEART FILLED WITH SPITE, DECIDED TO EXPERIMENT.
WHY, OF COURSE I CAN MAKE UP A DOLL TO LOOK LIKE THIS, GENTLEMAN!
GOOD! IT'S FOR A JOKE, YOU UNDERSTAND TO SURPRISE HIM!


THE NEXT DAY, JAMESON PICKED UP THE FINISHED EFFIGY AND TOOK IT HOME TO HIS LONELY ROOM.
THIS IS MARVELOUS! IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE CARL! NOW I CAN TELL HIM WHAT I REALLY THINK OF HIM, EVEN THOUGH IT PROBABLY WON'T WORK! IT'LL MAKE ME FEEL BETTER ANYWAY!


YOU MISERABLE CUR! SO YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN I AM, EH? WELL, YOU'RE NO GOOD, YOU HEAR? I'M BETTER THAN YOU'LL EVER BE! I HATE YOU! EVERYBODY HATES YOU!

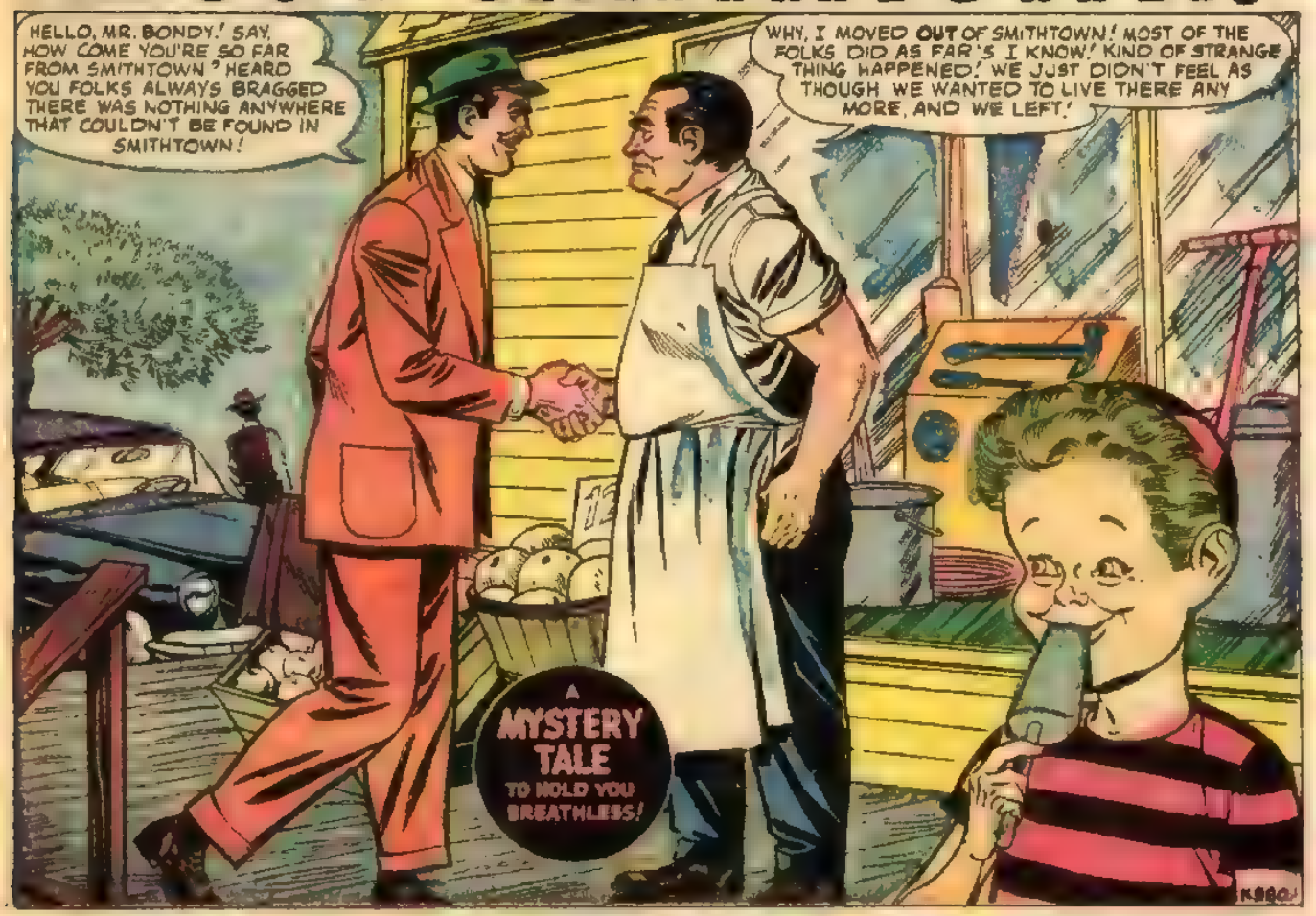
GOOD GRIEF! IT'S... IT'S CRYING! TEARS ARE COMING OUT OF ITS EYES! SO IT DOES WORK!

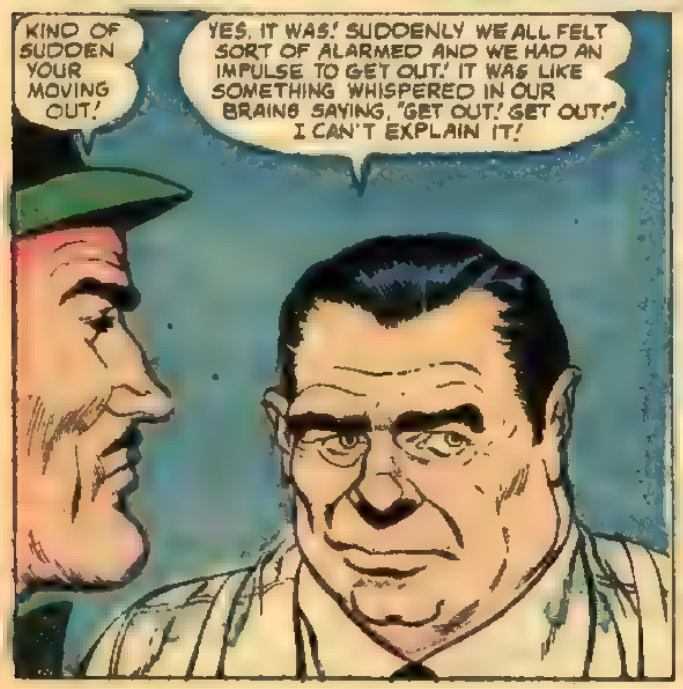
THAT MEANS THE REAL CARL FEELS BADLY, TOO! NOW I'LL REALLY LET YOU HAVE IT! YOU'RE— NOTHING BUT A...
2

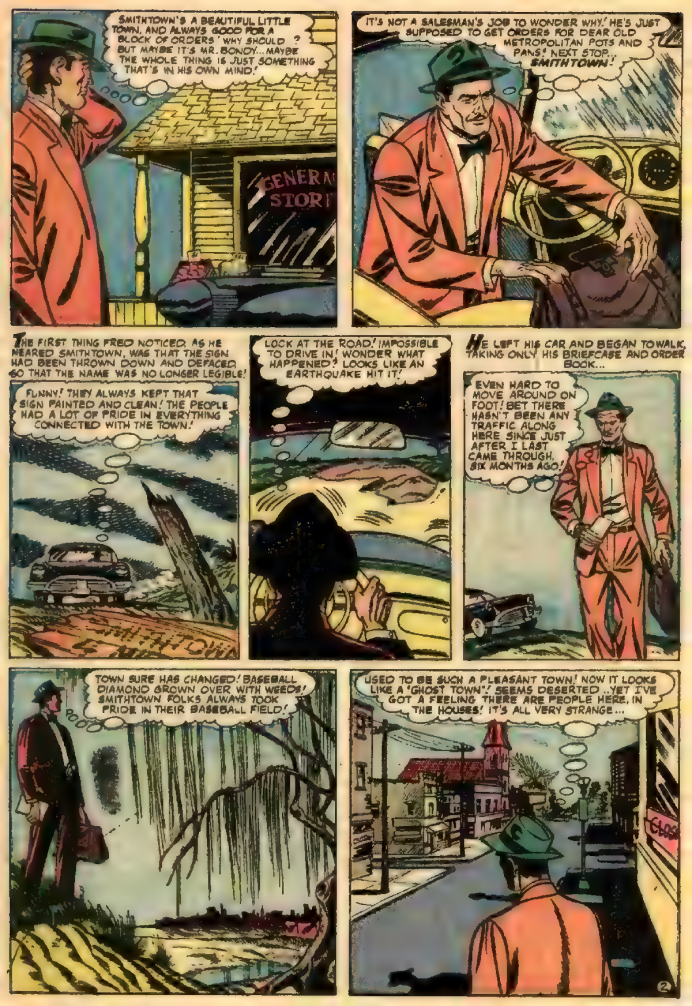
HUH? WHO'S THAT? DON'T TELL ME IT'S CARL! HE COULD HAVE FOLLOWED ME! STOP KNOCKING! THE DOOR'S LOCKED AND I WON'T LET YOU IN!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
YOU HEAR ME? SUFFER! BUT I WON'T LET YOU IN! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN GET AT ME AND I CAN KEEP RIGHT ON REVILING YOU, AND
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
YOU FOOL! YOU CAN'T GET THRU THE TRANSOM!
IT'S NOT CARL! IT'S... A... DOLL!
MORE OF THEM! CARL DIDN'T RESPOND THE OTHER DOLLS DID!
HERE! TAKE HIM! I DIDN'T HURT HIM! I JUST YELLED AT HIM, THAT'S ALL! PLEASE TAKE HIM.. AND GO!
WOULD JAMESON EVER EXPERIMENT AND TAMPER WITH THE UNKNOWN AGAIN? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
3

FRED AMES WAS A SALESMAN IN HARDWARE! SMITHTOWN WAS IN HIS TERRITORY, AND HE HAD TO STOP THERE TO PICK UP ORDERS! HE DIDN'T GET ANY ORDERS, BUT HE DID GET SOMETHING ELSE HE'D NEVER BARGAINED FOR... SOMETHING SO STRANGE, THAT HE'D NEVER FORGET IT!

SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT SMITHTOWN!


HELLO, MR. BONDY! SAY, HOW COME YOU'RE SO FAR FROM SMITHTOWN? HEARD YOU FOLKS ALWAYS BRAGGED THERE WAS NOTHING ANYWHERE THAT COULDN'T BE FOUND IN SMITHTOWN!
WHY, I MOVED OUT OF SMITHTOWN! MOST OF THE FOLKS DID AS FAR'S I KNOW! KIND OF STRANGE THING HAPPENED! WE JUST DIDN'T FEEL AS THOUGH WE WANTED TO LIVE THERE ANY MORE, AND WE LEFT!
A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!


KIND OF SUDDEN YOUR MOVING OUT!
YES, IT WAS! SUDDENLY WE ALL FELT SORT OF ALARMED AND WE HAD AN IMPULSE TO GET OUT! IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING WHISPERED IN OUR BRAINS SAYING, "GET OUT! GET OUT!" I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT!


SMITHTOWN'S A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE TOWN, AND ALWAYS GOOD FOR A BLOCK OF ORDERS' WHY SHOULD ? BUT MAYBE IT'S MR. BONDY... MAYBE THE WHOLE THING IS JUST SOMETHING THAT'S IN HIS OWN MIND.'
GENERAL STORE
IT'S NOT A SALESMAN'S JOB TO WONDER WHY.' HE'S JUST SUPPOSED TO GET ORDERS FOR DEAR OLD METROPOLITAN POTS AND PANS.' NEXT STOP, SMITHTOWN!
THE FIRST THING FRED NOTICED AS HE NEARED SMITHTOWN, WAS THAT THE SIGN HAD BEEN THROWN DOWN AND DEFACED SO THAT THE NAME WAS NO LONGER LEGIBLE!
FUNNY! THEY ALWAYS KEPT THAT SIGN PAINTED AND CLEAN.' THE PEOPLE HAD A LOT OF PRIDE IN EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH THE TOWN.'
SMITHTOWN
LOOK AT THE ROAD! IMPOSSIBLE TO DRIVE IN! WONDER WHAT HAPPENED? LOOKS LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE HIT IT!
HE LEFT HIS CAR AND BEGAN TOWALK, TAKING ONLY HIS BRIEFCASE AND ORDER BOOK...
EVEN HARD TO MOVE AROUND ON FOOT! BET THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY TRAFFIC ALONG HERE SINCE JUST AFTER I LAST CAME THROUGH, SIX MONTHS AGO!
TOWN SURE HAS CHANGED! BASEBALL DIAMOND GROWN OVER WITH WEEDS! SMITHTOWN FOLKS ALWAYS TOOK PRIDE IN THEIR BASEBALL FIELD!
USED TO BE SUCH A PLEASANT TOWN! NOW IT LOOKS LIKE A 'GHOST TOWN'! SEEMS DESERTED ..YET I'VE GOT A FEELING THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE, IN ... THE HOUSES! IT'S ALL VERY STRANGE...
2

HELLO THERE, MR. MALIN! WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
IN THEIR HOUSES, MR. AMES! DON'T ASK QUESTIONS... TAKE MY ADVICE AND LEAVE! YOU'LL GET NO ORDERS IN SMITHTOWN THIS TIME!
FUNNY, I KNOW SID MALIN WELL, AND THAT'S HIM ALL RIGHT... YET... IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HIM! I'M GOING TO SEE PHIL! HE'LL SET ME STRAIGHT!
PHIL! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO SMITHTOWN?
HELLO, FRED! THE TOWN? WHY, IT'S DYING! TOWNS DIE, LIKE PEOPLE DO! SAY YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A MINUTE!
IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE PHIL! HE'D NEVER BEEN DULL, LISTLESS HIS VOICE WITHOUT LIFE...
WHAT KIND OF THING IS THIS? THEY'VE ALL COME OUT AND ARE GATHERING IN THE SQUARE AND LOOKING UP AT THE SKY. THERE'S CARL STRUBEL. BILL MITCHEL. CHARLEY SIMMS... ALL OF THEM...
AND THERE'S MR. BONDY! HE TOLD ME HE'D LEFT! HOW DID HE GET HERE SO QUICKLY? I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
THE SUN SANK BEHIND THE HORIZON, AS HE MOVED TOWARD THE CROWD, AND THE PEOPLE, DULLY, SADLY, QUIT PEERING AT THE SKY AND TURNED AWAY!
MR. BONDY, WHEN I SAW YOU IN ALLENTOWN, YOU SAID... SAY, WAIT A MINUTE, YOU'RE NOT BONDY! YOU LOOK LIKE HIM, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING!
SUDDEN ALARM CAME TO HIM THEN! HE TURNED TO HIS FRIEND. NO! THIS WASN'T PHIL KETCHUM! IT LOOKED LIKE HIM. EVEN TO THE TINY SCAR ON HIS HAND. BUT IT WASN'T PHIL!
YOU'RE NOT PHIL! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE...
NO! NOT NOW! NOW YOU MUST STAY! I'M SORRY! I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU...

WE'RE NOT THE PEOPLE WE LOOK LIKE! WE'RE ALIENS FROM SOME FAR PLANET!
DEEP IN MEMORY IS A PICTURE OF OUR HOME PLANET, DYING! IT IS THE ESSENCE OF ALL LIFE TO SURVIVE! WE DID THIS BY CHANGING INTO TINY SEEDS, EVOLVING THUS OVER THOUSANDS OF CENTURIES, AS THE PLANET DIED!
THEN THE 'SEEDS' DRIFTED OUT INTO SPACE! FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS, WE DRIFTED AND FINALLY CAME INTO THE GRAVITATIONAL FIELD OF YOUR PLANET AND CAME DOWN HERE, IN SMITHTOWN! AT SUNDOWN EACH DAY, WE LOOK TO SEE IF MORE WILL COME, BUT THEY DON'T... THEY NEVER WILL!
WE SENT 'FEELERS' OUT INTO THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE, TO LEAVE HERE, AND THEY DID!
BUT HOW DID YOU BECOME HUMANS... ACTUAL PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE?
WE REPRODUCED THE IMPRESSIONS LEFT HERE BY THE LIFE FORMS, THE HUMANS, WHO HAD LIVED HERE, AND BECAME THEM. AFTER THEY HAD GONE, THE TOWN IS CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF YOUR WORLD AND YOU CANNOT LEAVE.. NO ONE MUST KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SMITHTOWN!
YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED AND IT WON'T BE FOR LONG! WE CAN ONLY LIVE IN THIS ENVIRONMENT FOR ABOUT A YEAR, NO MORE...ONE YEAR LEFT OF LIFE AFTER DRIFTING IN SUSPENSION ALL THAT TIME!
THAT'S WHY THE TOWN, THE HOUSES, EVERYTHING HAS GONE TO RUIN!
BUT HE KNEW THAT HE COULD NEVER ENDURE THAT YEAR OF CAPTIVITY AMONG THESE CREATURES! SUDDENLY, HE BROKE AWAY AND RAN...
NO! COME BACK! WE ONLY WANT ONE YEAR OF PEACE!
HE RAN ON THROUGH THE DARKNESS, PAST THE OUTSKIRTS AND ONTO THE BROKEN ROAD!
THEY DIDN'T CHASE ME FAR! THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE THE ENERGY, OR THE STRENGTH! ONE YEAR OF LIFE, AFTER MILLIONS OF YEARS OF MIGRATION! NO WONDER THEY LOOK SO SAD..
WELL, I WON'T TELL... I WON'T SAY A WORD! WHO WOULD BELIEVE THE TRUTH ABOUT SMITHTOWN ANYWAY? LET THEM HAVE THEIR YEAR OF LIFE...IN PEACE!
THE END

Men!

It Pays to be TALLER

"WHY BE SHORT"

Read the Revealing Truth about Height!

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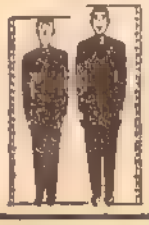

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banished me from the cage."

"Not *my* brothers, Krishna," said the lion indignantly. "Your own brother stilled your courage when he gave us the signal to turn on you. He is the elder, and we could but obey his command to leap upon you and rob you of your spirit."

"Why would Tonga do such a thing to me?" demanded Krishna.

"Out of envy," said the lion simply. "He is too proud, and he didn't want to share the audience's applause with you. He told us to turn against you to humiliate you in front of the people. Now he can stand in the center of the cage, resplendent in his marvelous costume, and accept the cheers of the crowd for the brave Tonga, while Krishna sulks in silence."

"And what if I should decide to walk back into the cage and show him that my courage is *not* lost before the lions?"

The green eyes of the lion flared angrily in the night.

"You have humbled yourself to us, and you dare not return. But there is something you can do for us both. Tomorrow night, during the performance, pretend to close the circus cage. Then let the lock slip back. My brothers and I will suddenly leave Tonga alone in the center of the ring while the audience laughs and jeers at the foolish lion tamer who cannot keep his animals together. Tonga will be humiliated and come crawling to you for help."

"And what will I do then?"

"You will show him a meeting place where my brother lions and I will wait for you. Then you will tell him that *you* are master of us all, and we will obey only you . . . the clever Krishna. Tonga will never enter the ring again. That shall be your revenge."

The full moon shone brightly, as Krishna returned to the trailer where Tonga lay sleeping. Carefully, Krishna removed his own white and gold uniform from the trunk where he had packed it away. He thought carefully, and he decided what he must do.

On the following night, a huge audience crowded the circus arena to watch Tonga prove his mastery of the lions. Krishna sat outside the performing cage in his usual black work suit.

The lions seemed more restless than usual. Tonga avoided them nimbly and sent them back to their places. Suddenly, Krishna sprang to his feet. His

eyes met those of the lion leader. The huge animal whipped his tail through the air, signaling the others that the time had come. With a roar, they charged for the door. The bolt of the cage had been left open. Krishna had seen to that. Tonga and the spectators gasped, and an extraordinary thing happened.

Through the door of the performing cage stepped Krishna, securing the lock hastily behind him.

"Back," he ordered, his eyes challenging the green-fire stare of the lion leader. "Back, I command!"

Swiftly he pulled his arms from the black work shirt to reveal the sparkling white and gold tunic of Krishna, the lion tamer. His hands moved in the familiar gestures, coaxing the lions back to their positions.

"Ungrateful beasts!" he scolded. "You would have me turn against my beloved brother, would you! I allowed you to conquer my courage because I refused to believe in myself. Not any more! Your trouble-making leader tried to trick me into setting you loose. And do you know what would have happened if I had fallen for his stupid plan? Instead of living out your lives as the king beasts of the circus, you would be hunted down and trapped . . . and destroyed. Your leader is a jealous and foolish beast, even as *I* was once a jealous and unreasonable man. Back, I tell you. It is the only way . . . for both of us!"

Tonga and Krishna gave the best performance of their lives. The chastened lions obeyed, tossing their massive heads proudly to the applause that was as much their due as anybody's.

That night, Krishna and his brother strolled arm in arm under the full moon.

"It is time now," said the older Tonga, "for you to assume your manhood and go whichever way your heart tells you. My desire to keep you here was in hope that you would find your courage. Tonight, you did more than that, and I am proud of you."

"Although I was trained in the lion tamer's art," explained Krishna, "I have a great ambition to know more about the world and all its people. I have learned faith in myself and love for my brother. It is my mission to teach this to others."

A sudden roar split the stillness of the night.

"It is the king of the lions," said Tonga, "saluting a king among men."

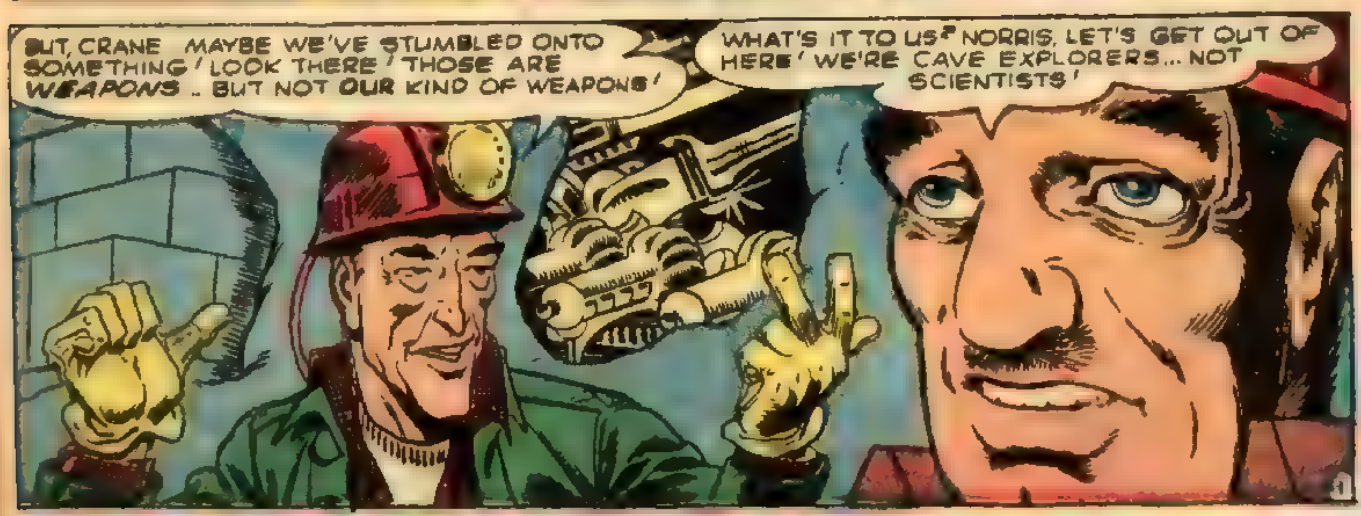
THE END G-507

THE SLEEPERS HAD SLEPT UNDISTURBED FOR COUNTLESS AGES, BUT THE MEN WHO FOUND THEM ONLY THOUGHT... HOW COULD THEY **PROFIT** BY IT...

WHEN THEY WAKE UP!

NORRIS! LOOK! ARE THEY DEAD?
NO...I CAN SEE THEIR CHESTS MOVING! THEY'RE ONLY ASLEEP! BUT WHO ARE THEY?
Ditko
MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!

IT ISN'T A NATURAL SLEEP, AND LOOK AT THEIR CLOTHING! THESE BOTTLES... IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY WERE SOME SORT OF ANTIDOTE!
YOU MEAN SOMETHING TO WAKE THEM UP? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! BUT I DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT! THEY MIGHT BE DANGEROUS!


BUT, CRANE MAYBE WE'VE STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING! LOOK THERE! THOSE ARE WEAPONS .. BUT NOT OUR KIND OF WEAPONS!
WHAT'S IT TO US? NORRIS, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! WE'RE CAVE EXPLORERS... NOT SCIENTISTS!

BUT MAYBE OUR HOBBY IS ABOUT TO PAY OFF! WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY MAY KNOW THINGS OUR SCIENTISTS DON'T EVEN DREAM OF!
AND YOU THINK WE CAN GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT? I SEE... ALL RIGHT! BUT HOW?

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SO DIFFERENT, IF ANY OTHER MEN HAD FOUND THE SLEEPERS; BUT THAT WAS NOT TO BE! SO DEEP INSIDE THE EARTH, FURTIVE VOICES WHISPERED..

OKAY THEN .. WE'LL SEE IF THE STUFF IN THE BOTTLES WILL WAKE THEM UP! THEN...
...THEN WE CONVINCE THEM THAT MAN TODAY IS ON HIS WAY DOWN... THAT THE WORLD NEEDS THEIR HELP! WE'LL USE THEM!

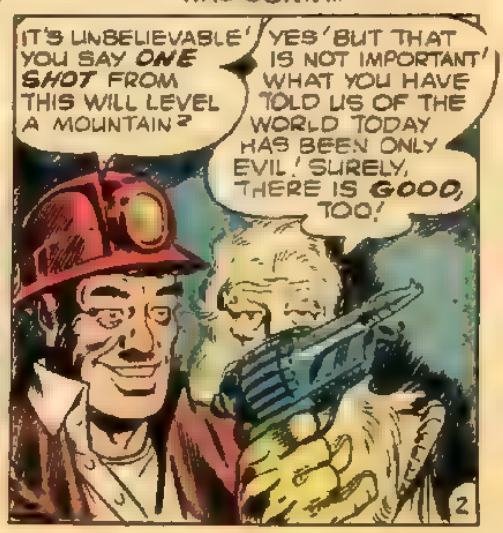
AND THOSE WHISPERS WERE TO BEAR STRANGE FRUIT...

YOU'RE AWAKE! IT WAS AN ANTI-DOTE! AND YOU SPEAK ENGLISH!
ALL THINGS REPEAT IN TIME! AND WE MUST HAVE SLEPT LONG! YOUR LANGUAGE WAS OURS, LONG AGO, BEFORE THE ICE COVERED THE EARTH!

YOU . YOU'RE FROM BEFORE THE ICE AGE? A MILLION YEARS AGO!
HAS IT BEEN SO LONG? WE WERE THE LAST OF OUR RACE! WE CAME HERE TO SEEK REFUGE!

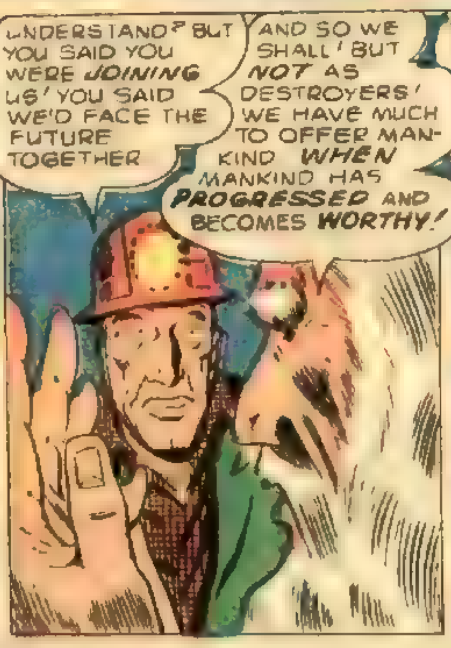
BUT YOU ARE HERE! THEN ALL IS NOT LOST! MAN STILL RULES THE EARTH!
YES! BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK! YOU DON'T KNOW.. THE WORLD ISN'T THE BEAUTIFUL PLACE IT MUST HAVE BEEN IN YOUR TIME!

TWO MEN OF TODAY.. AND TWO FROM YESTERDAY! IF ONLY THE WORLD HAD KNOWN! BUT THE WORLD DID NOT KNOW, AND SO THE POISONOUS SEED WAS SOWN...


IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! YOU SAY ONE SHOT FROM THIS WILL LEVEL A MOUNTAIN?
YES! BUT THAT IS NOT IMPORTANT! WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD US OF THE WORLD TODAY HAS BEEN ONLY EVIL! SURELY, THERE IS GOOD, TOO!

IF MEN ROSE AGAIN AFTER THE ICE DISAPPEARED, THE WORLD MUST HAVE LEARNED! IT CANNOT ALL BE SELFISHNESS AND VIOLENCE!
BUT IT IS! MAN ISN'T AS YOU KNEW HIM! EVERY MAN IS AGAINST EVERY OTHER MAN!
YOU DON'T KNOW! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE SELFISHNESS, THE CRUELTY...
ENOUGH! I WANT TO HEAR NO MORE! I WISH ONLY THAT THERE WERE SOMETHING WE COULD DO!
YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE, POWERFUL WEAPONS! IF YOU WANTED TO, YOU... WE COULD TAKE OVER THE WORLD!
WE HATE VIOLENCE, TOO, BUT THAT'S THE ONLY ANSWER! A CLEAN START WITH US RUNNING THINGS!
WITH US RUNNING THINGS? YES, WE COULD DO IT! BUT IT WOULD MEAN GREAT VIOLENCE! WE WILL THINK ABOUT IT!
VERY WELL... BUT DON'T TAKE TOO LONG!
BUT WHAT IS TIME TO MEN WHO HAVE LIVED FOR EONS?
THEY'VE BEEN TALKING FOR SEVEN HOURS, NORRIS. DO YOU THINK THEY BELIEVED THOSE LIES WE TOLD THEM?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT WE'LL SOON FIND OUT! HERE THEY COME!
YOU'VE DECIDED?
YES! NOW THAT WE KNOW HOW BAD THE WORLD HAS BECOME, THERE WAS ONLY ONE DECISION WE COULD REACH!
WE SHALL DRINK A TOAST TO THAT DECISION! TO OUR JOINING! WE SHALL FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER!
TOGETHER! WE WILL DRINK TO THAT... GLADLY!

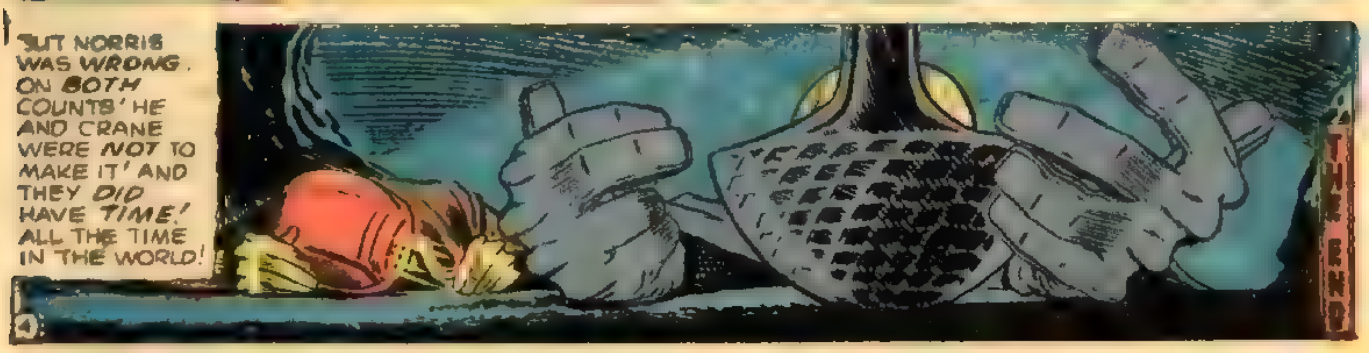
ALL R GHT 'NOW WE'LL MAKE SOME PLANS' WE'LL HAVE TO HIT HARD 'FIRST, MANHATTAN .. WE BLAST IT
BLAST? NO' YOU MISUNDERSTAND' WE ARE NOT MEN OF VIOLENCE 'WE THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD!


UNDERSTAND? BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE JOINING US' YOU SAID WE'D FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER
AND SO WE SHALL' BUT NOT AS DESTROYERS' WE HAVE MUCH TO OFFER MANKIND WHEN MANKIND HAS PROGRESSED AND BECOMES WORTHY!

BUT THAT WILL TAKE TIME' SO WE SHALL SLEEP AGAIN' SOMEDAY WE WILL BE FOUND AGAIN AND AWAKENED' THERE IS MORE ANTIDOTE IN THE BOTTLES'
BUT YOU NEED NOT FEAR' WE COULD NOT LEAVE YOU IN A WORLD WHICH TROUBLES YOU SO MUCH'

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT...
MY HEAD, NORRIS' WE ALL DRANK THE SAME THING THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT'

WE'LL SLEEP.. LIKE THEM' FOREVER! UNLESS WE CAN GET TO THE ANTIDOTE! AND I FEEL WEAK
SO DO I' BUT WE'LL MAKE IT' WE MUST' QUICKLY, WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME..


BUT NORRIS WAS WRONG. ON BOTH COUNTS' HE AND CRANE WERE NOT TO MAKE IT' AND THEY DID HAVE TIME! ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD!
THE END

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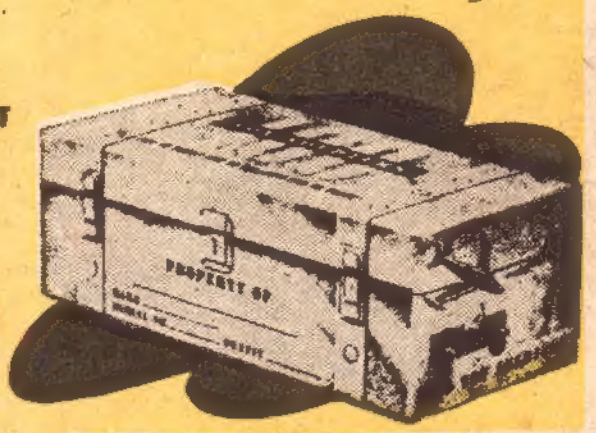

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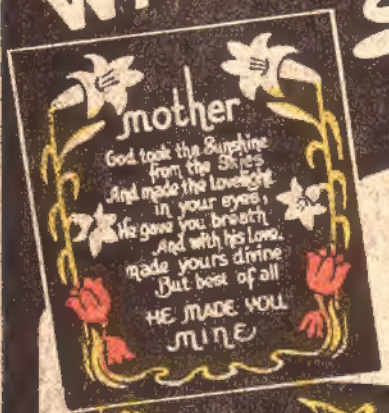

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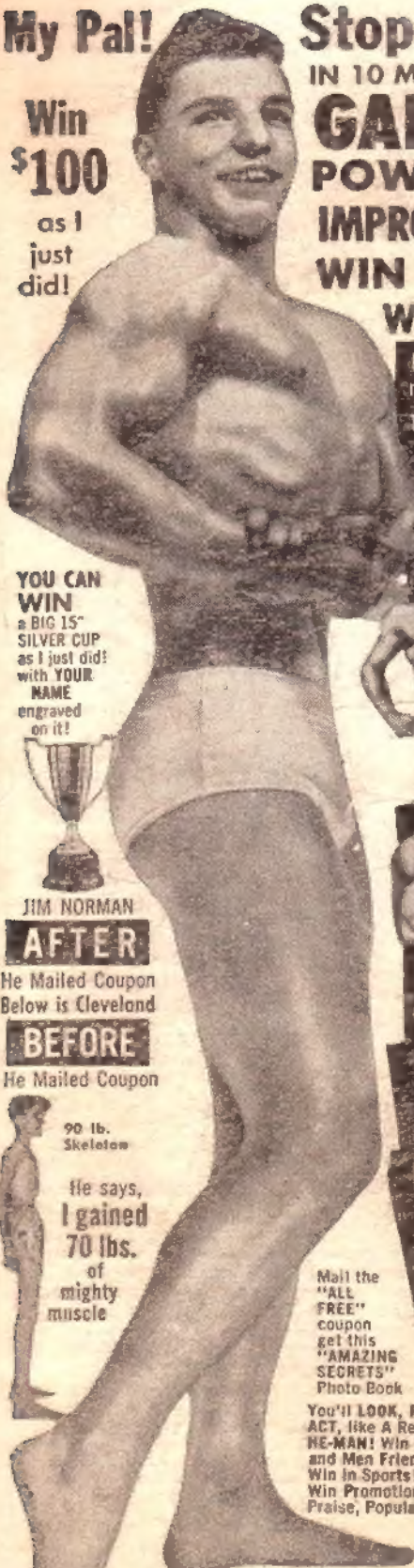

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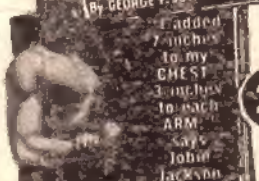

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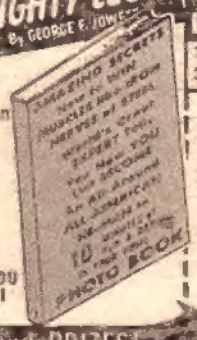

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